



"Working to make Indiana businesses clean and safe, and wages fair and competitive."

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## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Indiana Department of Labor Releases Occupational Injury and Illness Study Performed by Professor from Indiana University Purdue University - Columbus

Indianapolis, IN August 1, 2006 – The Indiana Department of Labor is releasing the findings of an academic study performed by Dr. Thomas D. Clerkin, Ph.D, an Assistant Professor of Management at Indiana University Purdue University in Columbus, concerning occupational injury and illness data in the State of Indiana. Indiana Department of Labor Commissioner Miguel R. Rivera, Sr. has reviewed the findings and will establish additional steps to further reduce the rate of injury and illness of Hoosier workers.

The study, *IN Review*, includes data before January 2005 (as far back as 1992) and compares it with occupational injury and illness data from the region (consisting of Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin) and the rest of the country. The data used is from Bureau of Labor Statistics Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries (BLS CFOI), the Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration (IOSHA) inspection data, and the Survey of Occupational Injuries & Illnesses (SOII). This is the first ever third party academic review of Indiana's occupational injury, illness, and fatality data. This extensive review will be used by the IDOL to focus its safety and inspection efforts.

"This effort is part of an overall plan to improve Indiana Workplace Safety. The idea is to establish where Indiana has been relative to other states and the nation. We identified the trends and how the Indiana Department of Labor can be effective in making positive changes to reduce occupational injuries and illnesses" Commissioner Rivera stated. Though some of the trends exist in areas over which IDOL does not have jurisdiction, the study will serve as an independent analysis for all state agencies and state legislators to reference.

Findings from the study include the top three in each of the following categories: event, industry, and occupation. The top three events included injuries and illnesses from: contact with objects and equipment, overexertion, and falls occurring on the

same level. Industries include: manufacturing, healthcare & social assistance, and retail trade. Occupations included in the top three were Production, Transportation, and Construction & Excavation.

The study is initially being released to state and federal government officials, industry organizations, and labor organizations. The entire study can be found on the Indiana Department of Labor website at [www.in.gov/labor](http://www.in.gov/labor).

For more information or if you have questions, please contact Deputy Commissioner Quin Cheatham at 317.232.2683.

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